

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY VIENNA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 076180

EXDIS, BUDAPEST FOR HARTMAN, VIENNA FOR LEDSKY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GR, CY, US

SUBJECT: CALL BY GREEK AMBASSADOR ON COUNSELOR-DESIGNATE
NIMETZ

1. GREEK AMBASSADOR ALEXANDRAKIS OPENED APRIL 5 MEETING
WITH COUNSELOR-DESIGNATE NIMETZ BY EXPRESSING DISAPPOINT-
MENT OVER DIRECTION OF VIENNA CYPRUS TALKS. HE STATED
THAT GREEKS ASSESSED TALKS ON BASIS OF HOW PARTIES HAD
CONFORMED TO PRINCIPLES AGREED TO BY MAKARIOS AND DENKTASH
IN PRESENCE UN SECGEN WALDHEIM ON FEBRUARY 12. THE
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GREEK-CYPRIOTS HAD LIVED UP TO THEIR PART OF THE BARGAIN
BUT THE TURKISH-CYPRIOT PROPOSAL ON CONSTITUTIONAL ARRANGE-
MENTS REPRESENTED A BREACH OF THEIR SIDE'S COMMITMENT.
THE TURKISH PLAN, IN FACT, ENVISAGED VIRTUALLY TWO
SEPARATE STATES RATHER THAN A FEDERAL ARRANGEMENT.

2. NIMETZ SAID THAT ALTHOUGH THERE WERE NO BREAKTHROUGHS

TO DATE, IT WAS TOO EARLY TO PREJUDGE THE OUTCOME OF THE TALKS. THE APRIL 4 SESSION HAD BEEN MORE PROMISING. THE US WOULD MAKE ITS EVALUATION AFTER GETTING AN IN-DEPTH BRIEFING FROM LEDSKY WHO WOULD BE IN VIENNA THROUGH THE ENTIRE DURATION OF THIS ROUND.

3. NIMETZ RECALLED TO ALEXANDRAKIS THAT CLARK CLIFFORD

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HAD ASKED BOTH SIDES TO FORMULATE CONCRETE PROPOSALS FOR TALKING IN VIENNA. IN OUR VIEW, BOTH HAD DONE THE "BARE MINIMUM". FOR INSTANCE, WE HAD EXPECTED A BIZONAL MAP, BUT THE ACTUAL GREEK-CYPRIOIOT PROPOSAL DID NOT APPEAR TO MEET THIS DEFINITION. NIMETZ NOTED THAT WE HAD THUS FAR REFRAINED FROM SPECIFIC, SUBSTANTIVE COMMENT ON EITHER PROPOSAL. BUT IT WAS CLEARLY A START. ON THE POSITIVE SIDE, BOTH SIDES HAD OBVIOUSLY PUT CONSIDERABLE WORK INTO PREPARING FOR THE TALKS; PROPOSALS HAD BEEN PRESENTED; AND THESE PROPOSALS ARE NOW BEING DISCUSSED. ON THE NEGATIVE SIDE, IT IS CLEAR THAT BOTH SIDES ARE FAR APART AND THAT MUCH DIFFICULT WORK LIES AHEAD. NIMETZ ADDED THAT THE JUNE TURKISH ELECTIONS ARE DEFINITELY AN INHIBITING FACTOR.

4. ALEXANDRAKIS REPEATED AGAIN GREEK VIEW THAT TURKS ARE ENTIRELY TO BLAME FOR LACK OF PROGRESS. HE STATED THE US ASSESSMENT OF RESULTS OF VIENNA TALKS WILL BE CLOSELY SCRUTINIZED AND IN THIS CONNECTION FORTHCOMING PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO CONGRESS WOULD SEEM AN IDEAL VEHICLE TO INDICATE

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CATE THAT THE TURKS DID NOT LIVE UP TO THEIR COMMITMENTS. IF TURKISH INTRANSIGENCE IS PAPERED OVER, THE HOPE FOR PROGRESS WILL ONLY GROW DIMMER. NIMETZ REPEATED THAT WE WILL RESERVE ANY JUDGMENT UNTIL THE TALKS ARE COMPLETED.

5. ALEXANDRAKIS TOUCHED BRIEFLY ON THE AEGEAN, NOTING THAT IT HAD BECOME CLEAR THAT THE TURKS HAVE NO INTEREST IN NEGOTIATING SERIOUSLY. THEIR COMPLETELY NEW PROPOSAL ON THE AIR SPACE QUESTION WAS ONE EXAMPLE. THEY ARE SIMPLY BIDDING TIME UNTIL THEY CAN ACHIEVE THEIR AIMS THROUGH OTHER MEANS. AT THIS POINT, AMBASSADOR INDICATED HE WAS UNDER INSTRUCTION TO RAISE PRIVATE COMMENT MADE TO "GREEK SIDE" BY LEDSKY IN VIENNA ON THE MERITS OF POSSIBLE JOINT EXPLOITATION IN THE AEGEAN. JOINT EXPLOITATION WOULD ALLOW THE TURKS TO EXPLOIT UNLIMITED AREAS OF THE AEGEAN IRRESPECTIVE OF WHO OWNED THE SHELF BELOW.

6. NIMETZ TOLD ALEXANDRAKIS THAT, PARTIALLY IN RESPONSE TO HIS GOVERNMENT'S DESIRES, WE WERE STUDYING ALL ASPECTS

OF AEGEAN QUESTIONS. WE ARE DOING THIS WITH AN OPEN MIND. WHILE WE HAVE NO IDEA OF THE CONTEXT OR THRUST OF THE REMARKS LEDSKY ALLEGEDLY MADE IN VIENNA, HE MAY SIMPLY HAVE MENTIONED ONE POSSIBLE IDEA, WHICH HAD BEEN USED ELSEWHERE IN THE WORLD, THAT MIGHT HAVE POSSIBLE APPLICATION IN AEGEAN. ALEXANDRAKIS STATED THAT IT WAS HIS IMPRESSION THAT THE US DID NOT INTEND TO DEAL WITH THE AEGEAN AT THIS MOMENT. NIMETZ SAID WE HAVE NO TIME-TABLE, BUT THAT WE WILL CONTINUE TO STUDY THE MATTER.

IT WAS OUR HOPE THAT THE PARTIES WOULD CONTINUE TO SEEK RESOLUTION OF AEGEAN ISSUES AT THE TABLE.

7. ON INSTRUCTIONS, ALEXANDRAKIS RAISED AGAIN QUESTION OF UPDATING APRIL 1976 KISSINGER-BITSIOS LETTER. HE SAID GOG IS EXPECTING TO HEAR SOMETHING ON THIS AND THAT THE GREEK PEOPLE PUT GREAT WEIGHT ON SUCH A DOCUMENT. IT CONFIDENTIAL

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WOULD SERVE TWO PURPOSES: (A) THE GREEK PEOPLE WOULD BREATHE EASIER WITHOUT THE CONSTANT THREAT OF TURKISH PROVOCATIONS; AND (B) TURKEY WOULD FINALLY BE CONVINCED THAT IT MUST WORK TOWARD ITS GOALS THROUGH PEACEFUL MEANS.

8. NIMETZ INDICATED THAT WE WOULD OBVIOUSLY HAVE TROUBLE WITH ANY STATEMENT WHICH APPEARED TO ENDORSE THE GREEK POSITION IN THE AEGEAN, BUT THAT WE WERE CONSIDERING THE GREEK INTEREST IN A NEW US STATEMENT ON THE AEGEAN AND WOULD BE BACK TO THE GREEKS LATER ON THIS. IN THAT REGARD, NIMETZ MENTIONED THAT A FINALIZATION OF A DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT IS IMPORTANT. IT WOULD PUT GREEK-US RELATIONS ON A SOUND, HEALTHY FOOTING AND HELP ENHANCE THE STABILITY OF THE AREA.

9. ALEXANDRAKIS DENIED THAT GOG WANTS AN ENDORSEMENT OF THE GREEK POSITION, BUT RATHER SOME LANGUAGE REFERRING TO BOTH SIDES WHICH ENSURED AGAINST THREATS OF MILITARY ACTION IN THE AEGEAN. HE ADDED THAT SUCH A STATEMENT MIGHT POSSIBLY BE MADE IN THE CONTEXT OF THE ONGOING BASE NEGOTIATIONS.

10. IN RESPONSE TO ALEXANDRAKIS' QUESTION, NIMETZ SAID THAT CYPRUS HAD BEEN DISCUSSED DURING SECRETARY'S VISIT TO MOSCOW AND THAT THIS HAD BEEN NOTED IN COMMUNIQUE. NIMETZ SAID HE UNDERSTOOD DISCUSSION HAD BEEN QUITE GENERAL WITH BOTH SIDES REGARDING VIENNA INTER-COMMUNAL TALKS AS IMPORTANT; SOVIETS HAD NOT RENEWED THEIR PROPOSAL FOR INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CYPRUS.

11. ALEXANDRAKIS RAISED ONE FINAL POINT ON INSTRUCTIONS.

HE CITED AN APRIL 2 ASSOCIATED PRESS STORY DATED
WASHINGTON WHICH QUOTES UNIDENTIFIED U.S. OFFICIALS AS
STATING THAT ONE WAY TO GET GREECE BACK TO THE BASE NEGOTIATIONS
WOULD BE THROUGH THE ADMINISTRATION SUGGESTING
TO CONGRESS THAT IT BEGIN CONSIDERATION OF THE TURKISH
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DCA. NIMETZ TOLD ALEXANDRAKIS THAT HE COULD ASSURE
ATHENS THAT THIS DID NOT REPRESENT AN OFFICIAL VIEW;
ADMINISTRATION DID NOT INTEND TO PRESS CONGRESS FOR EARLY
APPROVAL OF TURKISH DCA.
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